

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for treating asthma in an animal comprising administering to an animal in need of such treatment an effective amount of an antagonist of a mammalian CCR8 receptor.

5 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the antagonist is an antibody which binds to a mammalian CCR8 receptor.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the antagonist is a small molecule inhibitor.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the antagonist is a chemokine ligand.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the chemokine ligand is a viral chemokine ligand.

10 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said administering is in association with at least one of:

15 a) an anti-inflammatory agent;
b) a cytokine agonist or antagonist;
c) an analgesic;
d) a steroid; or
e) an anti-allergic agent.

20 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said cytokine agonist or antagonist is selected from the group consisting of:

25 a) an IL-5 antagonist;
b) an IL-13 antagonist; and
c) an IL-4 antagonist.

8. A method for screening for drugs useful for treating asthma in an animal, comprising:

30 a) incubating components comprising a test compound, a CCR8 receptor polypeptide and a natural ligand under conditions sufficient to allow the components to interact;
b) measuring the ability of the test compound to block the interaction between CCR8 and the natural ligand.

35 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the compound is a peptide.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the compound is a small molecule.

35 11. The use of a CCR8 receptor as a screening target for asthma therapeutics.

12. A genetically engineered non-human animal whose genome lacks a functional CCR8 gene.

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13. The genetically engineered animal according to claim 13, wherein the animal is a rodent.
14. The genetically engineered animal according to claim 13, wherein the rodent is a mouse.
- 5 15. A genetically engineered non-human animal embryo whose somatic and germ cells lack a functional CCR8 gene.

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